

# **International Marine Debris Conference On Derelict Fishing Gear and the Ocean Environment**

**Honolulu, Hawai'i  
6-11 August 2000**

## ***PARTICIPANTS' DECLARATION OF RESOLVE***

### ***Recognizing***

- the harmful and persistent effects of accumulating derelict fishing gear and other marine debris on marine flora and fauna, ecosystem integrity, and vessel safety,
- that all stakeholders are shipmates and share responsibility for stewardship and conservation of marine resources,
- the exigency to enhance communication, cooperation, and sharing of ideas and resources among various resource users, groups delegated conservation and management responsibilities, conservation organizations, and the general public, and
- the clear requisite to galvanize the accomplishments of the Conference and spur progress in resolving ecological and economic impacts of derelict fishing gear;

***Reaffirming*** the “Fisherman’s Pledge For a Clean Ocean” adopted by the north Pacific Rim Fishermen’s Conference on Marine Debris in 1987 and emphasizing its importance as a tool to address the problem of derelict fishing gear in the marine environment;

***Recalling*** the principles and obligations regarding marine pollution by lost or abandoned fishing gear as embodied in the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (a.k.a MARPOL 73/78), and the Guidelines for the Implementation of Annex V;

***Recalling further*** that in giving effect to these obligations, Parties should adopt and implement measures to minimize the loss and maximize the recovery of fishing gear with the strategic goal of eliminating adverse impacts of derelict fishing gear on the marine environment and vessel safety;

***Committed*** to the productive application of the efforts and recommendations of this Conference;

***The Participants of the Conference Recognize***, that in analyzing the significant problem of marine debris, it is the responsibility of all States to take concerted action to

prevent the discard and loss of fishing gear into the world's oceans and to endeavor to reduce the effects of derelict fishing gear through education, outreach, and removal programs;

***Consequently***, and as a matter of priority the Participants of the International Marine Debris Conference at Honolulu, Hawai'i (6-11 August 2000) recall the key recommendations of the Conference and resolve to diligently pursue those recommendations to:

1. *Establish* an International Plan of Action to Prevent the Discard, Minimize the Loss, and Maximize the Recovery of Fishing Gear,
2. *Develop* mechanisms to improve reporting of lost fishing gear and complying with international and domestic legal regimes to prevent and mitigate the effects of fishing gear loss,
3. *Identify and quantify* the adverse effects of ghost-nets and other derelict fishing gear and promote ongoing and new efforts to remove these sources of danger to marine life and vessels,
4. *Identify* the sources of derelict fishing gear with the objective of refining efforts to prevent loss and discard of fishing gear by targeting education efforts and engaging industry to develop outreach programs for these fishing communities,
5. *Establish* standardized protocols to map locations of commercial fishing and aquaculture activities using Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques,
6. *Consider* 'effort-rationalization' management approaches as tools to reduce loss of commercial fishing gear,
7. *Develop* broad-based, private-public partnerships to fund programs to recover derelict fishing gear and to provide long-term funding for education and outreach activities and to develop appropriate infrastructures for effective implementation and enforcement of measures to prevent discard and loss of fishing gear and the recovery of derelict fishing gear,
8. *Alert* government agencies to the urgency of addressing derelict fishing gear as national and international priorities and the need to bring this issue of concern to the attention of appropriate regional and international ocean governance institutions, organizations, and regimes, and
9. *Promote* the development of broad-based education programs, particularly those that may use emerging technologies, to (a) educate all stakeholders about derelict fishing gear impacts and programs that have been successful in resolving impact issues, and (b) disseminate information on initiatives and programs for prevention, mitigation, and monitoring of the impacts of derelict fishing gear.